A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 E01F15/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 E01F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ NL 1 006 481 C (LAURA METAAL EYGELSHOVEN B 1-5 V) 5 January 1999 (1999-01-05) cited in the application page 7, line 16 -page 18, line 35; figures 4,5 Y EP 1 001 090 A (POZIN FRANCOIS XAVIER 1-5 ; VERDIERE PIERRE (FR)) 17 May 2000 (2000-05-17) column 8, line 38 -column 9, line 7; figure 13 US 4 681 302 A (THOMPSON MARION L) Α 1 21 July 1987 (1987-07-21) column D, line 38 - line 43; figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document published prior to the International filling date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 11 August 2003 20/08/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Severens, G Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016



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